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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ITS RESUMED THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan
for the period 1992-1997

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. At its 40th and 42nd meetings, on 15 and 16 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Rev.1).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme narrative was too general and should have been more concrete as regards the actions to be undertaken.

3. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions overemphasized actions for promoting and supporting the development of appropriate institutions, while the need to strengthen existing institutions was not adequately reflected.

4. A number of delegations considered that the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the impact of the structural adjustment programmes in Africa should have been referred to in the revisions.

5. A number of delegations felt that the social development issues in Africa, in particular crime and drug trafficking, did not receive sufficient attention. In their opinion, the relevant paragraphs of the existing narrative should be maintained.

6. One delegation suggested that the titles of subprogrammes 3, 4 and 8 should be modified to read, respectively, "Campaign against poverty and promotion of sustainable development", "Institutional strengthening" and "Development of infrastructures" in order to highlight the objectives to be achieved under these subprogrammes.

7. A number of delegations proposed the deletion of subparagraph 30.23 (f) of subprogramme 1 as it was too general.

8. Some delegations considered that, in view of the continuing dependence of African countries on export earnings, the importance of external trade for Africa should have received greater emphasis in subprogramme 2.

9. A number of delegations were of the view that the role of the creditor countries in finding a solution to the external debt problem of African countries should have been highlighted in subprogramme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 30.22: Replace the second sentence with the following: "Although many financial and monetary institutions have been created and are operational, Member States have not availed themselves extensively of the technical support and advisory services offered in this respect";

(b) Paragraph 30.26: The second sentence of subparagraph (a) should be a separate subparagraph, (b); the remaining subparagraphs to be relettered accordingly;

(c) Paragraph 30.27: In the first sentence insert the words "and policies" after the word "objectives".

11. The Committee welcomed the new streamlined subprogramme structure.

12. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 9 (Women in development) be strengthened and designated high priority.

13. The Committee noted the vital role played by the multinational programming and operational centres of the Economic Commission for Africa in each African subregion, particularly in the areas of regional economic cooperation and integration.

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 13 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)/Corr.1).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the scope and the title of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) quarterly bulletin East-West Joint Ventures News should be modified in order to better reflect large changes that had taken place in the region during recent years.

3. Some delegations felt that ECE activities in connection with the republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) that had

not become members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) should be reflected in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 37. Emergency humanitarian assistance

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 37 (Emergency humanitarian assistance) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 37)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations considered that the role of non-governmental organizations had not been sufficiently emphasized, and stressed the importance of coordinating their contribution, as well as that of relevant regional and subregional organizaitons, to emergency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

3. A number of delegations stressed the importance of activities related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the need to ensure that those activities were not duplicated elsewhere in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Those delegations were also concerned that an excessive proportion of the resources available to the Decade would be used for administrative support costs, as they were of the view that such resources should be devoted principally to substantive activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 37 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

Subprogramme 2 (Disaster prevention and preparedness) should be designated high priority.

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 38. Public information

1. At its 37th and 38th meetings, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 38)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the new functions proposed for transfer to programme 38 would significantly change the nature of the work carried out by the Department of Public Information and went beyond the title of the programme. Concern was expressed that the Department would not be able to absorb those functions within the related resources proposed for transfer and that there might be a negative impact on existing

programmes. Other delegations welcomed the proposed consolidation of information functions and hoped that it would permit more effective delivery of programmes.

3. One delegation queried the apparent citation as a mandate in the proposed revision to paragraph 38.1 of the statement adopted by the Security Council at its first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992.

4. Another delegation suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.3 should be split, with the second and third sentences becoming a new paragraph 38.4. It was also suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.4 (e) was similar to the existing paragraph 38.4 (d) and that the two could be merged.

5. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the role of the United Nations Information Centres in spreading awareness of the role of the Organization, especially in the current rapidly changing world environment. Concern was expressed at the concentration of resources on a few Centres in developed countries and it was suggested that resources should be redeployed to strengthen Information Centres in developing countries.

6. A number of delegations queried the proposed role of the United Nations Information Centres in collecting information for dissemination at Headquarters and whether it fell within their mandate.

7. A number of delegations raised questions concerning the integration of field information functions between the Centres and the United Nations Development Programme and one delegation wondered why this had not figured in the proposed revisions to the plan. The possibilities for increased efficiency and effectiveness were welcomed, but concern was expressed that the mandates and role of the Centres should continue to be respected.

8. One delegation expressed concern that the functions included under the proposed new paragraphs 38.17 (m) to (q) risked duplicating activities of other departments, especially the Department of Political Affairs.

9. One delegation welcomed the consolidation under this programme of servicing functions for the Publications Board and expressed the hope that the Board would continue to contribute to improvements in the content and implementation of the Organization's publications programme. Other delegations stressed the role of relevant intergovernmental organs in this respect, including the Committee on Conferences and the Committee on Information.

10. One delegation expressed concern at possible duplication between the Department of Public Information and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Public Affairs, especially with regard to activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

11. Another delegation suggested that activities related to collection and dissemination of information should be included in a separate new subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

[12. The Committee emphasized that the new activities provided for under the proposed revisions to programme 38 should not adversely affect the implementation of the other activities under this programme.]

13. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 38 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 [with the following modification:

(a) the institutional arrangements to discharge the functions transferred from the former Office for Research and the Collection of Information will be reformulated with due attention to the agreed mandate of the United Nations Information Centres.]

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

1. At its 35th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 11 and 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 45 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 45)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the general thrust of the revisions to programme 45. A number of delegations were of the view that the commitments made by the African countries towards African economic recovery and development contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not adequately reflected in the programme narrative. One delegation suggested that the economic progress achieved so far by several African countries should also be mentioned in the programme narrative.

3. A number of delegations raised questions about the establishment, functioning and funding of the high-level consultative group referred to in paragraph 45.10.

4. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions proposed under paragraph 45.11 did not reflect the current situation and that the paragraph should be revised further.

5. A number of delegations suggested that the text of existing subparagraph (e) of paragraph 45.22 should be retained. One delegation suggested that the text of paragraph 45.22 should be revised further to reflect the provisions of the New Agenda.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 45.7: Add the following at the end of the paragraph: "The above broad objectives of the programme have their counterpart in the renewed responsibility and commitment entered into in the New Agenda by Africa, the overall goal of which is to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development. In particular, African countries have committed themselves to:

(i) Implementation of economic policies aimed at the transformation of the structure of their economies;

(ii) Achievement of effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration by establishing the African Economic Community, promoting sectoral integration of economies and developing and maintaining reliable networks of agricultural, physical, industrial and institutional infrastructures;

(iii) Intensification of the democratization process, full participation of people in development, respect of human rights and good governance;

(iv) Creation of an enabling environment that attracts foreign and domestic direct investment;

(v) Pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies to achieve food security;

(vi) Intensification of efforts in human resources development and capacity-building and deliberate and systematic integration of population factors into the development process;

(vii) Pursuit of action to arrest environmental degradation and enhance the scientific and technological capacities of the continent";

(b) Paragraph 45.10: Add the following at the end of the proposed new paragraph: "Responding to a recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, the Secretary-General has also established, within the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, a separate and identifiable unit on Africa, headed by a Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. This unit is the focal point on issues related to African economic recovery and development and, in particular, the implementation of the New Agenda. It will also have the specific task of servicing the high-level consultative group";

(c) Paragraph 45.11: At the end of the paragraph add the following sentence: "These measures taken to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 should be strengthened to facilitate coordination and implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s";

(d) Paragraph 45.20: Replace the text of the proposed new subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (d) with the following: "To undertake a study on the need for and the feasibility of establishing a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and to promote an agreement on this issue";

(e) New paragraph 45.26: Delete new paragraph 45.26 proposed for insertion after existing paragraph 45.25.

7. The Committee recommended that the recommendations of the high-level consultative group should be communicated to Member States for consultation before they were made public.

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995

The Committee, at its 22nd to 26th meetings, from 31 August to 2 September, considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/47/358).

Discussion

1. In introducing the proposed outline, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management stressed that the outline was not a budget or a summary budget but an indication in order to facilitate the preparation and adoption of the programme budget. The outline as a budget tool was still in a developmental stage.

2. The Committee was informed that the additional priorities proposed in the document were closely linked to the priorities established in General Assembly resolutions 45/253 and 45/255. A number of delegations considered that other priorities should have been included in the proposal. Some delegations considered that the priorities should be maintained as earlier established.

3. A number of delegations expressed concern about the apparent absence of significant change proposed in the budget outline. Concern was also expressed about the manageability of the total number of established posts. Some delegations also considered that the outline should have included the impact of the first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat.

4. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of proper redeployment to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization.

5. Some delegations inquired about the reasons for the increase in the indicative estimates for the Department of Public Information.

6. With regard to the decrease in the appropriation for common support services for the biennium 1994-1995, one delegation, while recognizing the necessity for redeployment, wished to emphasize the importance of maintaining a high standard of services.

7. With regard to the US$ 28 million proposed as the budgeting upfront of future preventive diplomacy and peacemaking missions, the Secretariat informed the Committee that it considered this provision to be a budgeting of perennials whose expenditures were subject to approval of the related mandates by the General Assembly. A number of delegations supported this approach, while others questioned whether the usual arrangements for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure would not suffice.

8. One delegation proposed that the CPC should resume its work on priority-setting, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/194, section II.

9. A number of delegations stressed the importance of zero real growth dynamically applied. They recalled the decisions previously taken by the General Assembly as well as the situation in other organizations of the United Nations system. A number of delegations emphasized that there was no principle of zero real growth as such and that the rate of growth and the preliminary estimate were purely indicative.

10. A number of delegations endorsed the statement of the Secretary-General that peace and security on the one hand and economic and social development on the other were so closely interlinked as to be indivisible.

11. Some delegations emphasized the need to clarify the relationship between priorities and the allocation of resources.

12. A number of delegations stated that the overall level of the budget and the real growth rate should be considered, bearing in mind the magnitude of extrabudgetary financing.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee felt that future outlines should provide more information on the programmatic assumptions underlying the proposals, as well as in general terms, and on the proposed direction of the programmatic content of the activities.

14. The Committee examined the outline using as a framework the four aspects listed in paragraph 1 of the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/47/358).

Estimate of resources

15. The Committee noted the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of his report.

16. The Committee recommended, in accordance with its mandate, that the General Assembly consider the preliminary estimate of resources submitted by the Secretary-General as a basis for a decision, taking into account the following:

(a) The decision of the General Assembly with respect to revised estimates reflecting actions taken for the restructuring of the Secretariat, which continues to be implemented, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/232 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including those that may be adopted at the forty-seventh session;

(b) The Committee took note of the Secretary-General's statement (A/47/358, para. 7) that significant changes in staffing levels were not projected for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional requirements would be met through redeployments in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget. The Committee stressed that programme delivery and the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates by the Secretariat should not be affected;

(c) The Committee stressed that the resources proposed should accommodate the mandates and the proposed programme of activities during the biennium, and noted the assurance given by the Secretariat in this regard. In this connection, the Committee noted that the projected impact in 1994-1995 of existing or anticipated mandates from the General Assembly had been taken into account in the preparation of the outline; 1/

(d) The Committee noted that the estimate of resources was presented at 1992-1993 initial prices and did not include the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations recosted at 1992-1993 revised rates, which would be available at the end of 1992;

(e) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), as required by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, to be submitted in accordance with its mandate;

(f) The Committee noted that the preliminary estimate proposed in document A/47/358 was of a global and indicative nature and that the breakdown of estimates for 1994-1995 by major programme was only illustrative;

(g) The Committee stressed that the budget outline, while still in a developmental stage, played an important role with regard to the predictability of resources for the forthcoming budget and early involvement of Member States, as called for in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

17. The Committee recommended that the treatment of perennial activities referred to in paragraph 6 of the proposed programme budget outline be considered further by the relevant bodies and that the preliminary estimate of resources and the rate of growth be recalculated, as appropriate.

18. The Committee further recommended that ACABQ keep under review the question of procedures for the commitment and use of such perennial expenditures.

Priorities

19. The Committee noted the proposals in paragraphs 10-12 of document A/47/358 and recommended that they be considered further by the General Assembly in the light of paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 45/253, which includes the overall priorities reflecting broad trends as derived from the mandates of the legislative organs, contained in the introduction to the plan, as well as the views expressed by Member States thereon, in particular, in paragraph 5 of resolution 45/255.

Growth

20. The Committee noted that, compared with the projected revised estimate for the biennium 1992-1993, growth was calculated at 0.2 per cent. This rate could change subject to the provisions of paragraph 15 (a) to (g) above.

21. The Committee was informed that under the current methodology, the rate of real growth would be higher. The Committee believed that the considerations contained in paragraph 15 (a) to (g) could contribute to the reduction of real growth as calculated under the existing methodology, and invited the Secretary-General to take this into account when preparing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. This programme budget should also recognize the importance for the Organization to fulfil with maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness all mandates entrusted to it by Member States and to respond to changing circumstances, including the new challenges it faces.

22. The Committee requested further clarification of the method of calculation of real growth. In this connection, the Committee considered that ACABQ would study the new methodology, including the concept and implementation of capital expenditure. The Committee also considered that additional methodological changes, such as the question of delayed impact, should be further examined by ACABQ and the General Assembly.

Contingency Fund

23. The Committee endorsed the size of the Contingency Fund expressed as the percentage proposed by the Secretary-General.

24. The Committee recommended that the working of the Contingency Fund be kept under review.

Other issues

25. The Committee noted the significance of staff assessment and capital expenditures in the total preliminary estimate and requested that they be considered by the competent bodies of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, as appropriate, the International Civil Service Commission, on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat.

Notes

1/ See A/47/358, para. 6 (a).

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

B. System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

1. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 16 September 1992, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1992/5).

General

2. The Committee was informed about the coordination mechanisms at Headquarters and at field level. It was felt that existing coordination mechanisms should be used for the coherent implementation of the Plan.

Discussion

3. A number of delegations welcomed the report, as it was the first time that United Nations activities related to Africa had been presented in the context of a system-wide plan. A number of delegations were of the view that that was a first step towards the development of a full system-wide plan. The view was also expressed that CPC should have been clearer in its request for the preparation of the Plan.

4. A number of delegations stressed that the Plan of Action should be seen as a dynamic and flexible instrument for agencies of the United Nations system in carrying out activities for African economic recovery and development.

5. A number of delegations, in referring to previous plans of action, stressed the importance of the implementation of the System-wide Plan for Africa and its use as a guideline by the agencies of the United Nations system.

6. A number of delegations were of the view that the Plan of Action was mainly a compilation of activities. It was felt, however, that it would provide a useful framework for action by the United Nations system.

7. A number of delegations were of the view that since African economic recovery was one of the five priority areas of the medium-term plan that were identified in General Assembly resolutions 45/253 and 45/255, adequate resources should be made available for the implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action.

8. A number of delegations emphasized the need for African responsibilities in respect of democratization, accountability and respect for human rights to be included in the Plan.

9. A number of delegations pointed out that the issue of women and development was inadequately reflected and called for more emphasis to be given to that important subject.

10. One delegation wished to be advised of the outcome of the current initiative to review the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP) and its implication for the process of launching and implementing new strategies and action programmes for sustainable forestry development in Africa, and of the steps which FAO was taking to coordinate its activities with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), given the latter's role in sustainable forest management.

11. A number of delegations stressed the need for leadership by the Secretary-General and commitment by the executive heads of the United Nations agencies and bodies for the effective implementation of the Plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee expressed concern about the late issuance of the report, which put unwelcome and unnecessary pressure on it in carrying out its work.

13. The Committee noted that the Plan had the structure of a compilation of activities and considered it to be a first step towards a more integrated approach as its implementation developed. The Committee recommended that the link between the System-wide Plan and the United Nations medium-term plan needed to be clarified.

14. The Committee expressed disappointment at the minimal reference to the role of women in development and requested that that be redressed to include, in particular, access of women to the decision-making level.

15. The Committee recommended that, in accordance with the objective of raising global awareness of the critical socio-economic and environmental situation in Africa, the Secretary-General launch, at the earliest possible time, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

16. The Committee recommended that the priorities of the System-wide Plan be used as guidelines for the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system related to Africa.

17. It also recommended that the Secretary-General call upon all relevant executive heads of United Nations agencies and bodies to accord high priority to the implementation of the Plan.

18. The Committee emphasized the role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its Chairman in the follow-up and coordinated implementation of the Plan by the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, and recommended that those bodies include specific programmes and activities related to Africa in their work programmes. The Committee urged the specialized agencies to continue to monitor the situation of resources available for Africa.

19. The Committee recommended that the Plan be monitored and updated in the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for African Economic Recovery and Development. At the intergovernmental level, the Committee decided to keep the implementation of the Plan under review. The Committee considered that the follow-up and implementation of the Plan needed to be discussed with ACC at a later stage.

20. The Committee recommended that since the Plan represented the contribution of the United Nations system to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of annex II to General Assembly resolution 46/151, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly.

21. The Committee recommended that revisions be submitted for consideration by CPC in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1999.

22. The Committee also recommended that, in view of the importance of the Plan and the unsuccessful outcome of the previous one, the Secretary-General play a leading role in its implementation in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

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II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

1. The Committee had considered the proposed revisions to 10 programmes during the first part of its session. At its resumed session the Committee was to review proposed revisions to 27 programmes for which the Committee was competent in accordance with the programme planning regulations and rules, as well as further revisions to 3 of the programmes that it had already considered during the first part of its session.

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee noted that to a considerable extent the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan incorporated the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the first phase of

the ongoing process of restructuring. The Committee recommended approval of those revisions on the understanding that further modifications would be made to the relevant programmes to take into account decisions by the General Assembly, inter alia, on the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council.

3. The Committee recommended that references throughout the revisions of the medium-term plan to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy be made consistently, using that recognized terminology.

4. The Committee stressed that the introduction of the concept of sustainable development in the proposed revisions to a number of programmes should be construed not as narrowing the scope of the activities mandated under the programmes contained in the initial version of the medium-term plan but rather as adding a new dimension to their implementation.

5. The Committee noted that reference was made in a number of proposed revisions to decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and to bulletins of the Secretary-General. In this connection, the Committee noted that these do not constitute mandates for programmes.

6. The Committee continued its consideration of the format of the medium-term plan. It considered that every effort should be made to maintain the prominent place of the plan as a policy directive for the work of the Organization. The Committee noted that only a limited number of the revised programmes had been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and regretted that situation, which deprived the Committee of a valuable substantive input to its own review. It considered that ways should be found to improve the consideration of the plan and the revisions to the plan by those bodies.

7. The Committee recommended that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery.

8. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the proposal.

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Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 16. Environment

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September 1992, the Committee was informed that the fascicle containing revisions to programme 16 (Environment) had not yet been issued as an official document.

2. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with this situation, which precluded its review of the proposed revisions under this programme. The Committee decided to refer those revisions to the General Assembly and recommended that the Assembly consider them in depth.

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